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OF THE PRESIDENCY

IRAQ STUDY GROUP

## *News Release*

EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:00 A.M.  
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202-429-3828

# **Bipartisan Study Group to Assess Situation in Iraq**

Washington – In light of the importance of Iraq to United States interests and the future of the region, there is urgent need for a bipartisan, forward-looking assessment of the situation in Iraq.

At the urging of Congress, the United States Institute of Peace, together with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Center for the Study of the Presidency, and the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, is organizing a fresh look by persons outside the government of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq, its impact on the surrounding region, and consequences for U.S. interests.

Leadership of the group, the "Iraq Study Group," will be provided by two distinguished co-chairs: former Secretary of Treasury and State James A. Baker, III, Honorary Chairman of the Baker Institute, and former Congressman Lee H. Hamilton, Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The balance of the bipartisan group will be comprised of Americans who have distinguished themselves in service to their nation: Robert M. Gates, Rudolph W. Giuliani, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Leon E. Panetta, William J. Perry, Charles S. Robb, and Alan K. Simpson.

The deliberations of the group will be supported by experts from the private sector, to include: military experts, leading public policy and academic institutions, and humanitarian assistance organizations. The group will consult, among others, with members of Congress and the Administration, as well as individuals and officials in Iraq and the region.

Press inquiries should be directed to Erin Boeke Burke in the Office of Public Affairs and Communications at the United States Institute of Peace at 202-429-3828.

**For more information, please see <http://www.usip.org/isg>. A transcript of the public announcement of the study group will be available online on March 16.**

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### **About the Iraq Study Group:**

The bipartisan Iraq Study Group, led by co-chairs James A. Baker, III, former Secretary of State and Honorary Chairman of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, and Lee H. Hamilton, former Congressman and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, will conduct a forward-looking, independent assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq, its impact on the surrounding region, and consequences for U.S. interests. The United States Institute of Peace ([www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)) is organizing the group with the support of the Center for Strategic and International Studies ([www.csis.org](http://www.csis.org)), the Center for the Study of the Presidency ([www.thepresidency.org](http://www.thepresidency.org)), and the Baker Institute ([www.bakerinstitute.org](http://www.bakerinstitute.org)).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE IRAQ STUDY GROUP, PLEASE CONTACT THE U.S. INSTITUTE OF PEACE AT (202) 429-3835.



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## About the Iraq Study Group

### *Mission*

The Iraq Study Group will make a forward-looking, independent assessment of the current and prospective situation on the ground in Iraq and how that affects the surrounding region as well as U.S. interests. The study group will examine four broad topics: the strategic environment in and around Iraq; the security of Iraq and key challenges to enhancing security within the country; political developments within Iraq following the elections and formation of the new government; and the economy and reconstruction.

The effort is being undertaken at the urging of several members of Congress and the White House welcomes it. A final report will be released to the Congress, the White House, and the public at the conclusion of this effort.

### *Members and Participating Organizations*

The Iraq Study Group is a bipartisan group of prominent Americans supported by four premier institutions. It is led by co-chairs James A. Baker, III, the nation's 61<sup>st</sup> Secretary of State and Honorary Chairman of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, and Lee H. Hamilton, former Congressman and Director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The other members of the study group include: Robert M. Gates, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and current President of Texas A&M University; Rudolph W. Giuliani, former Mayor of New York City and current partner at Bracewell & Giuliani as well as Chairman and CEO of Giuliani Partners; Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., former advisor to President Clinton and current Senior Managing Partner at Lazard Frères & Co. LLC; Leon E. Panetta, former White House Chief of Staff and current founder and co-director of the Panetta Institute; William J. Perry, former Secretary of Defense and current Professor at Stanford University; Charles S. Robb, former Governor of Virginia and U.S. Senator, current professor at George Mason University Law School; and Alan K. Simpson, former U.S. Senator.

The United States Institute of Peace is organizing the group with the support of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Center for the Study of the Presidency, and the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

The members of the study group will consult with members of Congress and others, including four working groups of experts and a group of retired military officers. The four working groups will be comprised of experts from private industry and leading policy and academic institutions.

For more information about the Iraq Study Group, please contact Pamela Keeton, Director of Public Affairs and Communications at the U.S. Institute of Peace, at [info@usip.org](mailto:info@usip.org) or 202-429-3870.

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